

Mr. Showman
Washington Utilities and Trade Commission

Dear Mr. Showman,

I was unable to attend the public meeting held on April 24th regarding the proposed South Whidbey Island Natural Gas Line. I am a new resident to the Island and I support the project and realize the cost savings from the use of natural gas. However, I believe that it is in everyone's interest to have the following items addressed and committed to in writing. I realize that some of these items may have been addressed or are in effect.

1. Contingency Plan: Each company should have a recently updated and approved Contingency Plan that addresses emergencies such as earthquakes, line breaks, evacuations and/or any other type of scenario that a natural gas operator/contractor could encounter.
2. The companies should have documentation that the contingency plan is exercised at least annually or more to enable the responsible parties to execute it effectively. In order to do so, the responsible individuals should have training and the records to prove that they received the training and exercised the contingency plan as committed. Each party should submit a summary of their company's training record for review. If the company has an approved contingency plan, the training requirement should be part of the plan and subject to public review. The plan should also be signed by one of the company's officer's that commits the company to the entire plan. If for some reason, the companies do not have a plan or there is not a regulation that requires a plan, then I suggest that they develop a plan that is acceptable to the state or governing agency. The plan is a working tool that should be part of a company's operations and planning package. I also believe that the plan should utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) which would enable the company to effectively interact with the other Public Agencies that would more than likely be involved in any large scale incident. This plan should be dated, numbered and updated to all holders as necessary. When selecting an operations company, safety should be given a strong priority.
3. Maintenance Plan: I believe that the companies should have a written Operations and Maintenance Plan that is current and if needed; specific to that portion of the gas distribution system. This plan should be dated, numbered and updated to all holders as necessary.
4. Cost of Consumers: I understand that a lot of potential customers now use propane as a fuel source. Are there any provisions, or will there be any provisions to assist the customers to convert to the new fuel source?

Once again, I am a supporter of the gas line. However, as a former Arco Alaska employee and oil spill specialist, I have witnessed where prevention and preparedness save time, money and possible lives. I am available if you need any additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

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